



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, June 15, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks extensively covered the enactment of the anti-conspiracy law this morning.

## POLITICS

### **MEXT confirms existence of 14 documents related to Kake scandal**

NHK reported that Education Minister Matsuno held a press conference this afternoon and announced that after an additional investigation, the ministry confirmed the existence of 14 of the 19 documents presented by the opposition parties indicating that Prime Minister Abe or the Kantei influenced the ministry to allow Kake Educational Institution to establish a new veterinary medicine department. Matsuno reportedly apologized for failing to confirm the existence of these documents in the previous investigation. According to the network, the 14 documents were found in shared folders or personal folders within the ministry.

- [Prime minister's schedule on June 14-15](#) (Nikkei)
- [“Conspiracy” law enacted to punish planning of crimes](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opinion: PM Abe's position casts shadow](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of regulations in “conspiracy” law](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Ministry finds documents apparently supporting Abe favoritism claims](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opposition bloc tactics may have failed in Diet](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Fukuda to be named new vice finance minister](#) (Yomiuri)

## SECURITY

### [Nighttime parachute drill at Kadena called off due to bad weather](#)

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported that due to foul weather the U.S. military decided not to go ahead with a parachute drop drill that was scheduled to be conducted at Kadena on Wednesday night. Given that the U.S. military had previously stated that “in order to maintain readiness, the training schedule must not be changed,” the dailies projected that the drill may be carried out in the near future irrespective of strong local opposition.

- [After 25 years, Japan searches for new place in peace missions](#) (The Japan News)

## INTERNATIONAL

### [Ambassador Kennedy receives award for fostering understanding between U.S. and Japan](#)

Jiji Press reported from New York that the Japan Society of New York presented former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy with the Japan Society Award on Wednesday for her contribution to fostering mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan. Kikkoman Honorary CEO Mogi also received the same award. Jiji wrote that through her relationship of trust with former President Obama, Ambassador Kennedy helped deepen friendly ties between the two nations and encouraged him to visit Hiroshima.

- [Interview with Under Sec. of State Shannon on DPRK, China, U.S. foreign policy, more](#) (Asahi Online)
- [Japan's Abe: Tokyo ready to lend a hand on China's Belt and Road](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan and China tussle over Asian ports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [LDP's Nikai reports to Abe on his meeting with ROK president](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Russian 1st PM to visit Japan in early July, territorial talks eyed](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Interview: Fumiaki Kubo on the Trump administration](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Editorial: U.N. report on press freedom in Japan based on misconceptions](#) (The Japan News)
- [Opinion: Impact of U.S. withdrawal from Paris accord](#) (The Japan News)

## ECONOMY

### **Western Digital seeks court injunction against Toshiba's plan to spin off semiconductor unit**

Nikkei reported online on an announcement made by Western Digital on Wednesday that it has asked the Superior Court of California to block Toshiba's moves to sell Toshiba Memory by claiming that Toshiba is pursuing a "course that clearly violates our contractual rights." While quoting the U.S. chip maker as saying: "Toshiba's attempts to circumvent our contractual rights have left us with no choice but to take this action," the daily projected that the hard line taken by Western Digital is bound to further complicate the Japanese electronics giant's business reconstruction plan focusing on the deconsolidation of its flash memory division.

- [Japanese automakers focus on developing eco-friendly cars](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP to finalize aid package for domestic farmers within month to clinch a Japan-EU deal](#) (Nikkei)
- [Hynix, Bain may join Japan-led bid for Toshiba's chip unit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [CIA report reveals true nature of Toshiba and METI's failure](#) (Economisuto)
- [Gov't to create new body to support drug makers' overseas ventures](#) (Nikkei)
- [Cool Japan Fund to foster budding ventures](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kyoto overwhelmed by foreign visitors](#) (Asahi Evening edition)
- [Japan begins FY 2017 "research whaling" in northwest Pacific](#) (Kyodo News)

## SCIENCE

- [Research team says GDP to decline by 4% without measures to counter global warming](#) (Mainichi Evening edition)

## EDUCATION

- [International students may steer clear of U.S. due to Trump administration's policies](#) (Sankei)

## SOCIETY

### **Takuma Sato wins Indy 500**

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on Takuma Sato, who recently became not only the first Japanese but the first Asian to win the Indianapolis 500. Sato appeared live on the show and talked about the race, his life, and his motto, "No Attack, No Chance."

- [NGOs call for examining actual state of "human trafficking"](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan doing poorly in ending child poverty among rich nations: UNICEF](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan aims to cut suicides by 30% in 10 yrs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Over 15,000 dementia sufferers go missing in Japan in 2016](#) (Jiji Press)

## OPINION POLLS

- [Japanese, South Koreans deeply divided over "comfort women," Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo poll](#) (Yomiuri)
  - [Japanese, South Korean views split over defense cooperation, Yomiuri-Hankook Ilbo poll](#) (Yomiuri)
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